(b) the reasons why the Trivandrum Rajdhani Express Train is just a bi-weekly train;

(c) what is the volume of passengers on the New Delhi/Nizamuddin Trivandrum route;

(d) whether Government proposes to make Trivandrum Rajdhani Express train daily to meet the heavy rush of traffic on this route; and

(e) if so, by when Government proposes to increase the frequency and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The traffic between New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram route varies from time to time. During peak rush period the demand outstrips the availability whereas during lean period accommodation is generally adequate.

(b) Due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) During April' 2007 to October' 2007 on an average 4179 passengers were booked per day on the New Delhi/Nizamuddin Thiruvananthapuram route.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion of Sakari-Jhanjharpur-Laukha rail line

†1308. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work related to gauge conversion from narrow (meter) gauge to broad gauge rail line situated at Sakari to Jhanjharpur and Jhanjharpur to Laukha under Samastipur rail division of East Central Railway, Hajipur has not been taken up, so far; and

(b) if so, by when the work of gauge conversion from the above two narrow (meter) rail sections into broad rail track would be taken up and the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The work on the Sakari-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali & Saharsa - Forbesganj Gauge Conversion project has been taken up.

(b) Does not arise.

Travelling facilities to candidates of postponed recruitment test

1309. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recruitment test which was to be held recently at Patna has been postponed;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the next date, if decided, for the test; and

(c) whether due notice and facilities for travel would be provided to the candidates and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to administrative reasons, the written examination for the posts of Clerk Grade-II, Trains Clerk, Ticket Collector and Commercial Clerk scheduled on 28.10.2007 was deferred to 25.11.2007.

(c) Wide publicity of the postponed examination was made through Newspapers etc. well in advance. As per the extant rules, only Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates have been provided free rail travelling facilities for appearing in the examination.

Review of Tatkal System

1310. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Cental Railway has introduced a commercial system of allotting 50 per cent of all Reserved Accommodations in express trains to the "Tatkal" category;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways has reserved only 25 percent of accommodations as Tatkal category as a national policy;

(c) to what extent South Central Railway is over-reacting and exploiting the public;

(d) the steps proposed to review the present Tatkal reservation policy for accommodation and its impact on the public; and

(e) the measures proposed to increase train accommodation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The extent of accommodation earmarked in various trains under Tatkal scheme varies from 10% to 30% of the accommodation depending upon the average utilization.

(c) Tatkal accommodation earmarked on South Central Railway is as per extant norms.

(d) Review of the policies including Tatkal scheme is a continuous process.

(e) Extra coaches depending upon the general waiting list are being attached to clear wait list passengers in various tains starting from Andhra Pradesh to different destinations. Besides, special trains are also run to various destinations during Summer, Winter and Festival vacations.

Backlog quota in promotion

1311. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had converted backlog in promotion quota to Direct Recruitment during financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08; and